

Amendments to the specification

Please replace the TITLE, with the following paragraph:

~~PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ETHYLENE POLYMERS~~

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, below the TITLE:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of co-pending Application Ser. No. 09/914,411, filed on August 28, 2001, which is a national phase filing under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Application No. PCT/EP00/13346 filed December 21, 2000, which claims priority to EP Application No. 99204565.8 filed December 28, 1999. The entire contents of Application Ser. No. 09/914,411, International Application No. PCT/EP00/13346 and EP Application No. 99204565.8, each as filed, are incorporated herein by reference. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 29, and ending at page 4, line 28, with the following paragraph.

Non-limiting examples of metallocene compounds suitable for use in the process of the invention are:

~~dimethylsilyl-diyl (tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-dimethylcyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium~~ dimethylsilyl-diyl-(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-dimethylcyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dichloride and dimethyl, ~~dimethylsilyl-diyl (tetraethylcyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-dimethylcyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium~~ dimethylsilyl-diyl-(tetraethylcyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-dimethylcyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dichloride and dimethyl,

~~dimethylsilandiyl-(tertraisopropylcyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-dimethylcyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dimethylsilandiyl-(tetraethylcyclopentadienyl)-7-(2,5-dimethylcyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium~~ dichloride and dimethyl,

dimethylsilandiyl-7-(2,5-dimethyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-7-(cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dichloride and dimethyl, dimethylsilandiyl-7-(2,5-diethyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-7-(cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dichloride and dimethyl, dimethylsilandiyl-7-(2,5-diisopropyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-7-(cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dichloride and dimethyl, dimethylsilandiyl-7-(2,5-ditertbutyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-7-(cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dichloride and dimethyl, dimethylsilandiyl-7-(2,5-ditrimethylsilyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-7-(cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dichloride and dimethyl, dimethylsilandiyl-7-(2,5-dimethyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-7-(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dichloride and dimethyl,

dimethylsilandiyl-7-(2,5-diethyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-7-(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dichloride and dimethyl,

dimethylsilandiyl-7-(2,5-diisopropyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-7-(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dichloride and dimethyl,

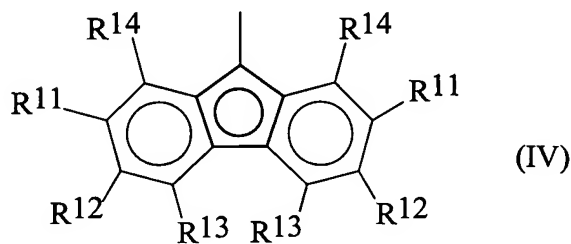
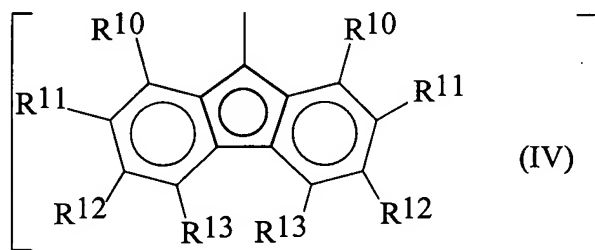
dimethylsilandiyl-7-(2,5-diisopropyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-7-(tetramethylcyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)zirconium dichloride and dimethyl,

dimethylsilandiyl-7-(2,5-dimethyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-7-(3-trimethylsilylcyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-zirconium dichloride and dimethyl,

dimethylsilandiyl-7-(2,5-dimethyl-cyclopentadienyl-[1,2-b:4,3-b']-dithiophene)-9-(fluorenyl)-zirconium dichloride and dimethyl,
 b:3,4-b']-dithiophene) zirconium dichloride and dimethyl.

Please replace the paragraph from page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 8 with the following paragraph.

Particularly interesting metallocenes of formula (I) for use in the process of the invention are those in which L is a moiety of formula (IV):



wherein $[R^{10}]$, R^{14} , R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} , which may be the same or different, are selected from hydrogen, a C_1 - C_{20} -alkyl, C_3 - C_{20} -cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_{20} -alkenyl, C_6 - C_{20} -aryl, C_7 - C_{20} -alkylaryl

or C₇-C₂₀-arylalkyl radical optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13 or 15-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements, and optionally two adjacent [R¹⁰] R¹⁴, R¹¹, R¹² and R¹³ groups can form a ring having 3 to 8 atoms, which can bear substituents.

Preferably [R¹⁰] R¹⁴, R¹² and R¹³ are hydrogen and R¹¹ are selected from hydrogen and a C₁-C₂₀-alkyl group.